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Gardenside Gossip

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A CELEBES MACAGUE?

Probably not, for Celebes macaque is a short tailed monkey. But a firm of men in Djakarta is planning to send an expedition to Sumatra and other sections where even now the Communists are burning and slaying, to collect animals for the zoos of the world, and sent out letters announcing the fact. One of them came into the office of the Vermont Historical Society. And from the Director of that Society, comes the letter from which our heading is taken. It says, in part--

"Even while the guns are firing,--, the quiet work of the scientist, the musician, the historian, and others goes steadily on; and after the guns are stilled, as they will be, and the barbarians have gone, as they will go and have gone for centuries into oblivion, the good work goes on toward a wiser and more understanding world."

In this as in Whittier's Abraham Dav-enport, quoted in this column in another day of worry and strain, is a keynote for our days. We must do that which we have to do, believing that we are steadily advancing in the right path. And if we find strength, in carrying on our daily work, shall we not also find rest and peace in our gardens, at the end of the day?

DOUBLE WHITE PLATYCODON.

There is no finer plant that will flower in late summer in the hardy garden, than the Balloon Flower. Both the blue and the white flowered sorts are known as long lasting, sure to bloom specimens, untroubled by disease or insects. Closely related to the Campanulas, the one species is known as *P. grandiflorum*, growing several feet high and having large flat bell-like flowers three inches or more across. From this tall sort developed a more dwarf form, known as *P. mariesii*, which usually grows only about 18" high, but makes a large clump, in time having fifty stems, all well flowered in July and August. And in this dwarf form, from time to time, appeared colors tending toward pink, and an occasional double. Recently efforts to produce good pinks, and good double forms have succeeded, but propagation is difficult and slow, and the plants are proportionately high priced. Some are quite tall, also.

Two years ago, we were offered a strain of double white flowered *Platycodon mariesii*, grown from seed. We didn't believe they would be all that was claimed, but we bought some and last summer all flowered. They are beautifully double, and all are exactly alike. Many saw them in our test, last summer and wanted them then. Now we are offering them generally, while they last. They are heavy four year old roots, sure to carry a good number of stems this first summer, and to flower well. Give them room for they will make a heavy clump after the first year.

PRICED AT ONE DOLLAR EACH, with other plants. ALONE, \$1.25.

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HARDY CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

HARDY (AND EARLY) CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

STRONG 2½" POTTED PLANTS. 60¢ each; 3 for \$1.50 (alike).
Except as noted.

BRONZE MOUND. A new bronze Cushion Mum, flowering in early Sept.

CANARY WONDER. Beautiful 1½" balls of soft canary yellow on two foot stems. Huge sprays for cutting. NEW. \$1.00 each.

CHIPPEWA. Bright aster-purple. Fluffy semi-dbl. flower. Very hardy.

CHICUITA. Perky 15" mound, a dome of clear yellow pompoms, in late September. This replaces September Gold.

COURAGEOUS. On a 2' plant, 2½" flat double blooms, rich crimson in color. About Oct. 1st. Best red we've seen.

EARLY WONDER. A tall, soft pink pompom, excellent for cutting. Blooms Sept. 20th to October first.

E.A. WANDER. Huge sparkling bronzy yellow. Earliest big mum. Grows two feet high and fine for cutting. September 18th.

FLAXEN BEAUTY. You'll read about this new sort, everywhere. As it opens, it is peach, yellow and coral. As it ages, it turns an indescribable soft yellow, like a wheat field at harvest time. Blooms October 1st, and lasts well. \$1.00 each.

GOLDEN CARPET. Golden yellow pompoms on very erect, 2' stems. Very hardy and really a border plant. Sept. 15th.

GLACIER. Pure white, double flowers of large size, in loose clusters on good stems. Not tall. Hardy and early.

JOAN HELEN. Perky little 18" high plant, a mass of semi-double 2½" wide flowers of glowing purple crimson. Sept. 15th.

LAVENDER LASSIE. Much like a lavender pink Azalea mum, but taller and less compact. Opens in mid-Sept., and is not hurt by frost. Very beautiful and choice. Seldom over two feet tall.

PINK SURPRISE. A newcomer. Flowers early in Sept. Clear rose pink, with creamy overtone. A rounded 2" flower, on a sturdy 2' plant.

SUMMERTIME. (Patented). Really a hardy border plant, rather than a Mum. Grows 2' high, the flowers single clear yellow daisies. After the first year, it flowers from late July on. Later, the first year. Divide every third year. 75¢ each.

SUNAPEE. Fully double rich gold pompoms on 30" stems, fine for cutting. Blooms thruout September and is very hardy.

SEPTEMBER BRONZE. Rich bronze pompom, making a low mound, 2' across in one year. Flowers thruout September.

SEPTEMBER CHEER. Cherry red, overlaid purple. The September group are all compact, cushion pompoms, 18" high, and hardy.

TAPESTRY. A fully double, 3" wide fluffy flower, opening deep rich pink, and softening to ashes of rose. 2' high. Sept. 15.

VIOLET. Brighter and more double than Chippewa (wine purple). Early September. A 2½" flower on a two foot plant.

WHITE MOUND. A splendid new early white pompom, of good size. Last fall it was in full flower on September 13th.

Last fall, for the first time, we had visitors in the nursery who wanted us to dig plants of Mums in bloom for them to put into their gardens for immediate effect. We have tried to encourage this sort of thing, here in Northern Vermont, but it is hard to sell a person a plant which is going to last but a few weeks and then may not over winter in the open -- especially if the customer is a Vermonter. But after one man had been back the second time, we were encouraged. After all, why not. These were bronzes and purples and yellows, and if your garden was empty in late September, as most are, up this way, and for a moderate sum you could have color in it for a short time longer, it certainly seems well worth while. Anyway, we ended by selling most of the plants we were growing for stock to take cuttings from this spring and had an excellent chance to determine what our customers really liked.

And then we paid a visit to Bristol Nurseries, to see the acres of their fine new varieties, and older ones too, in full bloom. We spent two days there, and when we came away, we had a new list of varieties for this year. These are the sorts that were being taken up and sold in quantity while we were there. Some we already had. And some we had, we decided to discard. Here is the new list, we're sure you'll like every one of them, especially if you live so far north that you expect frost not later than October 10th, as we do.

The present day Hardy Chrysanthemums have been derived from crossing new species with older forms, and then recrossing the progeny to get desired characteristics. Most of them are moderately hardy, over winter, with a small amount of protection. Or, they may be lifted in late October, and put in a cold cellar. In the spring, replant only strong divisions, they will flower better than the old clump. That is why we send out well established rooted cuttings that have been potted. These should have the top pinched out at least once after being planted in your garden, but not later than July first, in the north. Growth is never strong, until midsummer. When the plants do begin growing strongly, give them a little extra plantfood, and water, if the season is dry. You will get astounding results.

Many persons like to put these Mums into the edge of the border, where Pansies are in spring, spacing a foot or more apart. The lower kinds make fine fall edgings, and may be lifted to permit using Pansies again in spring. The taller sorts may be put into the border anywhere. Perhaps the best way of all, is to put a row into the vegetable garden, giving plenty of space, and then move the plants into the border, as they begin to flower. As for pests, they are few. Use Black Leaf 40 regularly, and you need not do more.

Unless a price is specifically stated, all these plants are 60c each; 3 for \$1.50; 5 for \$2.00; 10 for \$3.50, postpaid. Quantity prices are for plants exactly alike.

LILY GOSSIP.

Not long ago, we were able to sit down with three other lily enthusiasts and spend most of a day, gossiping about our hobby. Since one of these was Alan MacNeill and another was Jan de Graaff, whose articles about lilies have been featured in the Saturday Evening Post, you can believe that we did more listening than talking. Bear in mind that MacNeill has published a book on the subject of lilies, and that all the other three were familiar with species we never grow.

A number of things resulted from this visit, however. First of all, there is a greatly increased interest in lilies. There are a large number of new varieties being developed and soon to be put on the market. As is always the case when a plant family begins developing in this way--we watched it happen to the Gladiolus--too many sorts will be sent out without being fully tested. They will duplicate other introductions, and develop culture problems we do not expect. But at least a part of the work in hybridizing that is being done is definitely aimed at developing easily grown, disease resistant things which will improve older varieties, and species.

On the other hand, there is a lot of indiscriminate crossing going on. Many beautiful variations will undoubtedly appear. Perhaps one in a hundred will last. One story that was told dealt with a hybridist who offered for sale a lot of lilies that would be thus and so. When asked how he knew, he replied that he made the crosses himself, a red one on a white variety. The results would "just have to be" so and so!

Now that is wishful thinking, for good lilies won't develop so easily. We have spent about ten years now on our pink trumpet lilies, and each season, we discard some that we thought excellent a few years back. We think that better seedlings flower each summer, than we have seen before. This year, most of our selections will flower in one long bed all together, so they can be compared.

If we came away from this visit with any one definite opinion gained, it was the old determination to "Make haste slowly". It is entirely possible that before we know it there will be better lilies than the ones we grow and know. But the point is that we do know the varieties we offer. Most of them we are producing, here, from seed or by some other method. If they do not grow easily for us, they are even less likely to do so for you. Try the new sorts if you wish. But if you want lilies in your garden, don't neglect the tried and true sorts for a while yet.

HARDY GARDEN LILIES.

In order to plant Lily bulbs in the spring, it is necessary to dig them in the fall and store them in cold cellars, to retard spring growth, for the bulbs sprout quite early if left in the ground, and must then be handled with extreme care. If the stem is broken, growth is lost for the entire season. We always dig and store a lot of bulbs, but the quantity available this spring is lower than usual, due to a heavy demand. A few sorts will be freshly dug, and others will sell out early so that late comers will be disappointed. BETTER ORDER EARLY.

AMABILE. Flowering early in July, this lily grows to about 3' and produces seven to ten grenadine red flowers in a spreading head, on short stems. These are turks caps, so that color is well displayed. There is distinct black spotting. Scatter it thru the border to flower after the Coral Lily. FRESHLY DUG BULBS, 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.25; 100 for \$30.00.

AMABILE LUTEUM. This is a golden yellow counterpart of the preceding, attractively black spotted. It is still a scarce sort, but of easy culture. The best midsummer yellow lily. FRESHLY DUG BULBS, 60¢ each; 10 for \$5.50.

TENUIFOLIUM. The Coral Lily, when massed makes an astonishingly bright splash of color, for nearly two weeks in early July. The flowers are small, but they are produced in profusion on the slender 30" stems. And when scattered thru the border they brighten it much more than one would expect. Coral red turks caps, three inches across--in case you aren't familiar with it. Small bulbs, but they do produce a lot of blooms. STORED BULBS, 20¢ each; 10 for \$1.75; 25 for \$3.75.

TENUIFOLIUM GOLDEN GLEAM. This is a rich orange yellow form of the Coral Lily, identical with it in every other way. STORED BULBS, 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.25; 25 for \$5.00.

TRUMPET LILIES.

SHELburne HYBRIDS. These hybrid Trumpet Lilies now replace the Regal Lily in garden value, as they are usually taller and stronger and flower over a longer period. This strain, which we introduced, is notable for the latter factor, and we often have blooms over the entire month of July, with a few persisting into August. Their value in the garden is further increased by the fact that the blooms are held quite well erect, so that the flowers can be seen. STORED BULBS,--
4/5" bulbs, 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00.
5/6" bulbs, 50¢ each; 10 for \$4.50.
6/8" bulbs, 65¢ each.

CHAMPLAIN HYBRIDS. These derive from our efforts to produce a pink flowered Trumpet Lily. Beginning with a chance seedling which showed a pink tinge, we have raised many seedlings and introduced other strains as well. The resulting flowers are much more diverse in type than those of the Shelburne Hybrids. These should not give any pink blooms, as they have been taken out. However, may beautiful things are sure to appear.
4/5" bulbs, 60¢ each; 10 for \$5.00.
5/6" bulbs, 75¢ each; 10 for \$7.00.
6/8" bulbs, \$1.00 each.

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SHOWY CHOICE PERENNIALS.

ASTER FRIKARTI. Masses of soft lavender blue flowers on a rounded bushy plant, about two feet high, and as far thru beginning in August and continuing for a month, characterize this finest of all hardy Asters.

A. - HARRINGTON'S PINK. This is a true New England Aster, in a true soft pink color. It is not weedy, doesn't seed, and is rarely beautiful in September.

A. - MOUNT HOOD. A pure white New England Aster, quite unsurpassed by any other white variety. NEW. Stock limited. \$1.00 each.

CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA. The Black Cohosh will grow to 8' tall. It makes a large clump of striking foliage two or three feet high, above which tower the flower stems, each tipped with a long spike of white foamy flowers, in late summer. Excellent in shade, but good in sun, at the back of the border.

CHELONE LYONI. This is the southern Turtlehead, not so tall as our northern one and with bright pink flower heads instead of white ones. Makes a strong clump, the stems very erect, to three feet. The flower spike at the top quite resembles a huge snapdragon. The plant is of the same family.

DELPHINIUM PACIFIC HYBRIDS. There are no finer Hybrid Delph. than this strain. Ours are one year old, transplanted.

DICENTRA SPECTABILIS. Bleedingheart is a specialty of ours. Our plants have fine clean roots, and many buds.

D. - ALBA. The white form of the true Bleedingheart, rare in gardens, is a slightly smaller plant than the type. The white flowers become blush pink as they age. \$1.00 each.

DORONICUM CAUCASICUM. The Leopard's-Bane flowers in early May. Striking, large yellow daisies, are held stiffly erect on two foot high stems. They are excellent for cutting.

D. - CLUSI. This form is quite distinct. It grows about a foot high, a shapely little plant, rather than a tall erect one like the preceding. The flowers are smaller, too, but in a large head. Looks well all summer. Spring flowering.

EUPHORBIA POLYCHROMA. A close relative of the showy Poinsettia. Makes a two foot clump of soft green foliage and stems, at the tips of which appear in May an unusual combination of bracts and flowers of soft yellow. Good looking after flowering too, if cut back and forced to make new growth.

HEUCHERA CASCADE. This Coral Bell has light green foliage, with an attractive dark ring. The soft pink blooms are on tall spikes, and are produced nearly all summer.

H. - GARNET. The newer Coral Bells are not so tall as the older sorts, but the bells are larger and brighter. This is a very striking red form.

H. - MATIN BELLS. Deep pink, almost red flowers on a heavy stem. Grows easily, and is the most attractive new variety we know.

LIATRIS PYCHNOSTACHYA ALBA. The familiar Kansas Gayfeather, that ornaments the fall garden with its three foot stems, topped by a spike of bright purple flowers, opening from the top down is now available in a white form, both scarce and rarely beautiful. Excellent for cutting. \$1.25 each.

OENOTHERA MISSOURIENSIS. Of the large Evening Primrose family there is scarcely a more striking variety than this. The stems are grey blue, as is the foliage. More or less prostrate and a foot long, these are covered with huge yellow flowers up to four inches across, in summer, followed by seed pods equally strange, - four winged affairs that become loosened and are then rolled by the wind.

ABOUT NEW PLANTS.

This is a subject that interests us from innumerable angles. Consider what some of them are, if you will.

What are NEW plants, and what should they be? Why do we search for them? What do they mean to the nurseryman, and to the gardener?

To begin with, we can assume that there is little chance of anyone finding an entirely new plant, except in the most remote areas of the globe, for the world has been pretty well botanized. Not but that a few areas of our own country could conceivably reveal a never before noted oddity, or a natural hybrid appear in the wild, or some sport of a well known species be found. All these have happened quite recently. In Oregon, not too many years ago appeared a little shrub, *Kalmiopsis*. Fern hybrids such as Scott's *Spleenwort*, or sports such as the highly crested forms of Hart's-tongue are quite common. And the Dwarf Alberta Spruce was found on a Canadian field but a short time ago. These are new in a sense, which brings us to the next question, - are they of value?

Of course they may be. Many of the things grown and offered by nurserymen the world over originated as natural sports. They are much more likely to be worthwhile than that an entirely new plant family will be of real help to our gardens. Aside from its rarity, *Kalmiopsis* has no real beauty, nor value except on certain soils. But the Dwarf Alberta Spruce ornaments many a home.

And so we search for them. In fact we go still further and try our best to produce them to order, by what we know as hybridization. Too often this proves to be a hit or miss matter. If a slight variation is noted in a well known plant, we segregate it and designate it as new. Or if crossing two plants of the same family but of differing colors, produces an intermediate shade or a series of differing colors, again we consider them new and send them out without considering whether they are an improvement in other ways, or indeed may distinctly lack all other values.

To the plant grower, such new things have come to mean a source of revenue. One has only to pick up any recent catalog, to find new Mums, new Roses, new this or that. They are shown in color, and described in glowing words. None of us are above reproach in this matter.

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About new plants, -con.

We suppose that in a sense this is a game between the nurseryman and his customer. There is certain to be some value in any new plant sent out by a reputable firm. And perhaps in the particular location given it in scattered gardens, it may surpass all older varieties. Yet we are reminded of a visit to a municipal Rose Garden some years ago with a man whose knowledge of roses was unquestioned. He had spoken at the dedication of this large garden, on the shores of a small lake, and remarked that it was an ideal spot. The visit was made in late August. Bed after bed, all carefully labelled was inspected. New and choice sorts had been used and added as needed. When we were thru, we were back before a bed containing one of the oldest varieties in the whole garden. It had the most blooms and the best foliage of any sort there. "Still one of the finest roses in the world", was his comment.

We do not seek to disparage the search for new plants. We engage in it ourselves and would find our work uninteresting if we did not. So too, would be any garden that contented itself with only the oldest favorites. But at the same time, we may wonder just how much gardeners are missing who each year buy just the newest things, and fail to keep up the old well tried combinations. Such a garden can be a hodge-podge of miscellany, without color combinations, foliage values, or succession of bloom. From the standpoint of interest alone, to make a garden produce its utmost all these should be present. The skill of the gardener receives a real test, too. And there are other returns to be had from growing plants than to have the biggest flower, the longest spike, or some rarity no one else can display at the local Show.

A new plant, to be of real value, then, should be an improvement on older sorts in ease of culture, in foliage, in height, or color, or all of these. But how can we know that such is the case? The instinct of the professional, provided it is accompanied by a sense of responsibility to the business by which he lives, should give more than half the proof needed. The balance can only come in gardens all over the land. No one can declare that a plant will grow and thrive, anywhere. Some will do well in a wide variety of conditions. These soon become popular. A few are so beautiful as to make extra care worth while.

We do not quarrel with the continuous search for new varieties. We do regret the tendency to overlook the older ones. Our one openly expressed antipathy is for those who take some old plant, and with a new name, and an enhanced photograph in color represent it to be what it is not!

SHOWY CHOICE PERENNIALS.

PENSTEMON BARB. PINK SPRITE. We are sure that you would all like this new Penstemon, if you'd try it. It is perfectly hardy, and free of troubles. It grows not over two feet high, with us. The stems are filled almost to the ground with the little pink trumpets. Showy in the garden, fine for cutting and a neat plant when out of bloom.

P. GRANDIFLORUS HYBRIDS. Everyone who saw these outstanding new hybrids of the finest of the Penstemons in flower here last summer, wanted plants of them. You'll recall that we featured them on p. 1 last fall. The response was good, but not as good as it should be. You'll be fascinated by the glossy grey-blue leaves, thru which the stem passes. This stem may grow to five feet, with the top third a spike of large tubular flowers, not unlike a Foxglove, and in every color from white to red and purple, some delicate, others strong and brilliant. Hardy, too!

PHLOX DIVARICATA LAPHAMI. This is the true soft blue form of the May flowering Canadian Phlox, growing about a foot high in a compact mass. Should be cut down after flowering.

P. -SNOWFLAKES. The very finest pure white form of this Phlox. Sent us by Alex Cumming years ago, and his judgment was of the highest. Both these sorts are fine for bedding.

PYRETHRUM, HELEN. If you can buy but one new plant of us this year and do not have this splendid Painted Daisy, be sure that you get it. It grows so readily, and flowers so freely that no sort can compare. Its color is perfect, an even rose pink. The flower is perfectly double, and perfectly formed. Moderately tall, it is fine for cutting. Our introduction.

P. MRS. C. E. BECKWITH. This also was first sent out by us. It is the best white Pyrethrum we know, very double and large and of easy culture. It is a taller plant than Helen, and not so erect, but it is a good garden variety, and fine for cutting. Our stock is still limited. \$1.00 each.

P. MRS. D. C. BLISS. This is a small single daisy like sort, which makes an outstanding mass of color by the profusion of its flowering and particularly by its unusual shade, which is a bright orange pink.

P. ROSARY. We obtained this sort a year ago, and find it grows easily and increases well. Many sorts do not. The flower is quite double, and a good rose pink, deeper than Helen.

P. VICTORIA. An old English sort, single, deep rose flowers on the verge of red. Large and a sturdy grower, this makes an unusually striking mass of color.

SCABIOSA BLUE SNOWFLAKE. We are again able to offer a moderate number of plants of this soft blue Scabiosa, sent out by us some years ago. It is perfectly hardy, one of the few sorts we know has been grown for more than ten years. The sorry truth is, we mishandled a fine lot some two years ago, and have had to propagate very carefully. \$1.00 each.

STEIRONEMA or YELLOW PHLOX. This plant is not a Phlox, but it much resembles one. It may grow four feet high, with Phlox like heads of bright yellow flowers in summer. 60¢ each.

VERONICA LONGIFOLIA SUBSESSILIS. Finest of all Veronicas, this has beautiful dark green foliage, topped with nearly foot long spikes of dark blue flowers in August. Nothing else like it at its season. Fine for cutting.

THALICTRUM ROCHEBRUNIANUM. Often called Lavender Mist, this Meadowrue has the fine foliage of the family, while its flowers are a soft lavender blue, filled with a tuft of yellow stamens, in July and later. It may stand to five feet. Quite indescribable, and should be in every garden. \$1.00 each

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VARIOUS RARE PLANTS.

ADONIS AMURENSIS FLORE PLENO. The Adonis flowers in the very early spring. This form, from Asia, may grow to more than a foot of height. The flowers are very double, and are green as they open, gradually turning bright yellow. The finely divided foliage disappears in July. Partial shade. \$1.00 each.

AETHIONEMA WARLEY ROSE. A tiny prostrate plant, looking like a miniature *Daphne cneorum*, the bright pink flower heads of unusual size, and the steel blue foliage making an attractive background. Useful in the sunny rockery. 60¢ each.

ALYSSUM SAXATILE FLORE PLENO. Those who like the familiar "Basket of Gold" will appreciate the even brighter color of its double form. We have only a few plants to spare. \$1.00

ARABIS ALBIDA FLORE PLENA. Rock Cress is a familiar edging plant in many gardens, and it is often used in rockeries. The grey foliage and white flowers have always been a pleasing combination. The double form is more showy, and fragrant also.

ARMERIA LAUCHEANA. This smaller form of Thrift makes a compact tuft of narrow leaves, about four inches high, and the bright rose pink flower heads are held stiffly above them on six inch stems. Flowers in early summer. Dry soils.

CLEMATIS FREMONTI. This Clematis is native to the Plains States. It grows to about two feet of height, an erect bush with bell shaped blue flowers in summer, followed by the typical feathery flower heads. \$1.25 each.

EPIGEA REPENS. Arbutus, beloved by all who know it. Prostrate stems and leathery green leaves, and the most fragrant pink flower clusters we know. We expect to have a good supply of the fine pot grown plants we have previously supplied. Because of their weight, they are, \$1.50 each.

EPIMEDIUM COCCINEUM. For us, this variety grows best. These are plants for partial shade, where they carpet the ground. The foliage is particularly attractive when it first appears and as it matures has bronzy green coloring. Stands about 18" high, at best. The red and white flowers show thru the leaves in late spring. \$1.00 each.

FILIPENDULA HEXAPETALA FLORE PLENO. This is the Dropwort. From a low tuft of fern like leaves, the flower stem of this double flowered form rises to about a foot, and makes a fine bold head of creamy white to display against a green background.

F. ULMARIA VARIEGATA. This plant came to us as Italian Spirea some years ago, and we think it may be classified as a form of the Queen-of-the-Meadow. However, it grows for us only about a foot high. The white flowers are inconspicuous, but the variegated foliage is much more attractive than most things of this sort. BOTH THESE ULMARIAS, 60¢ each.

GENTIANA ACAULIS EXCISA. When Fred Borsch sent us this little Gentian, he wrote that it was the only form he had ever been able to keep without continually raising it anew from seed. And so it has been for us. The dark blue flowers are 1½" long and very large. The plant, however, is tiny. We have a very limited number of young plants at \$1.00 each.

IRIS RUBRO MARGINATA. This little gem grows only four or five inches high, the bright green leaves with an outward curl, that is unlike any other species we know. Unusually large fragrant, brown purple flowers.

RARE PLANTS.

One may readily argue that there are almost no really new plants, but if the word rare is substituted, it is less easy to prove the statement. For there are rare plants, as a look at even the small list here offered will show. Yet why are they rare, or at least what does the word signify?

A plant may be rare in cultivation, for a very good reason, - it may have no real garden value. Or it may be of such difficult culture as to be impossible for the average gardener. And somewhere between these two is to be found the most fascinating group of plants we know. Those that can be grown, with a little extra care, or skill, and which have value for the place they are put, quite above that they display in flowering. And too, there are certain plants of good garden value that have not been given the amount of attention by nurserymen, or hybridists, which should be more commonly grown, yet can hardly be had.

The list on these pages is made up of plants from these two groups. For instance the *Salvia* we offer is not likely to be found in any American list of plants. Yet it is common in southern Europe, and grows readily here in any good soil. Its value lies in its moderate growth and the intense blue purple flowers in late summer. When we offered it last, we do not recall, but we have kept it here since before 1940, out of sincere liking for its late summer color.

In another case, consider the *Vancouverias*. There are three of these plants according to Hortus, which grow in the forests on the west coast. Only one is satisfactory here, the one we offer. We have kept it happy for a number of years, and each spring when it appears we enjoy the delicate structure and coloring of the foliage. As a ground cover, under evergreens, it is ideal, and should be happy in a well drained soil with high shade. Yet one never sees it commonly. Last fall we exhibited it to Zenon Schreiber, and found at least one person who values, and uses it.

Somewhat similar, is the *Arbutus*. This plant, once so common thruout New England woods, has definite soil requirements, but if these are provided, it is not hard to grow. First, acidity, and second, shade but not close shade. After these, a mulch of pine needles to keep down crowding other growth. Then *Arbutus* will thrive. But try to find it commonly grown. We know but one man who grows it from seed. His complaint is that getting the seed is the hardest feature. It can be grown from cuttings and there should be larger flowered and brighter colored sorts. We once heard of a double form, too.

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Rare plants,-con.

Almost every summer, we get at least one inquiry, or a visitor who asks for the Gentians. Now this is an extremely large family, and we have to discover first of all just what Gentian is wanted. The wild flower lover, familiar with the American flora will ask for Fringed Gentian (*G. crinita*). So often it is with a wistful look, and we are never certain whether it will give joy or sadness when we say that we have a large wild colony, established by us, and constantly spreading. Seed from a colony in southern Vermont, was scattered here many years ago, and each fall we have a fine display.

Or else the request comes from one who knows the Alpine meadows of Switzerland, where *Gentiana acaulis* stars the slopes with intensely blue open trumpets in late spring. And so we show, or write about our small bed of plants of *G. acaulis excisa* which grows so readily for us, that we have kept it for more than ten years. Yet whenever we have increased it, we have had our labors for our pains. It is slow to attain size, but it is very easy to grow. Wonder how it will sell this time.

Harts-tongue Ferns. To the American Fern lover this brings to mind at once the relatively small area in central New York where it grows plentifully (and is protected by law from being destroyed). Extremely rare in America, it is very common in Europe, and is grown by fanciers in myriad forms. Not spectacular in itself, if one can have a collection of the varied crested, fluted, divided types for comparison the plant immediately becomes fascinating. Requiring a somewhat calcareous soil, some shade and well regulated moisture, it is not difficult to grow.

There are so many plants of this sort having something in their favor, like the scimitar like leaves of *Iris rubro-marginata* the ability to stand drought and still flower attractively, displayed by *Armeria lauchiana*. That it is hard to understand why they do not fascinate others as they do us. Our collection is not so large as was once. We have discarded many species of *Sempervivums* and *Pedums*. Yes, we have stopped propagating many others as well just because our records showed that we didn't sell enough of them to pay for weeding the beds. Some of the plants we offer here are being sold out for that same reason. There is no use trying to make people grow what they do not wish to try. But we still don't understand the reason why.

VARIOUS RARE PLANTS.

PODOPHYLLUM EMODI. The Himalayan Mandrake is notable for its large bright pink flowers under the attractive bronze foliage in spring, and really huge bright red fruits that develop later in the summer, and look like Crimson Goose Eggs as they were once called by a friend. \$1.00 each.

PRIMULA JULIAE MRS. KING. The Juliae Primroses are smaller than the more familiar Polyanthus, -more neat and compact in growth and well suited for edgings. At the same time, they withstand summer heat far better. This variety has bright mauve pink flowers.

P. POLYANTHUS HOSE-IN-HOSE. These old favorites have all but disappeared in gardens. This one is yellow, and the second flower projects from the first in the manner which gives the plant its name.

RANUNCULUS MONTANUS. This little Alpine Buttercup grows but a few inches high. It spreads to make a mat of glossy leaves in any good soil, particularly if damp. The surprisingly large yellow buttercups appear in May, and last for a long time. Excellent for carpeting a wet spot-under a faucet.

SALVIA BERTOLONII. This hardy Salvia grows about two feet high, with quite large crinkled dark green leaves. The flowers are a spike of dark blue-purple for the last six to eight inches of the stem, in late summer. They last for a long period, at a season when this color is infrequent. \$1.00

SCOLOPENDRIUM VULGARE FORMS. These Harts-tongue Ferns are grown from spores from plants originally supplied us by T.A. Weston noted garden authority and editor. They are so varied that it is impossible to describe any one sort. We grow them in pots in the greenhouse for convenience, but they are hardy in proper locations in this area. \$1.25 each.

THALICTRUM KIUSIANUM. We have grown this little Meadow-rue for years, but never have had a quantity of it. If we did, someone always saw it and bought a quantity, and then we were short again. This year, we think we have a good supply. They will be dormant roots, which we dug very late and have stored. Can be sent at any time, and if you have a greenhouse take them early, and pot them. The plant grows about 6" tall, spreads to make a large tuft of filmy foliage, topped with exquisite soft lavender flowers.

VANCOUVERIA HEXANDRA. Our American counterpart of the *Epimedium*, with much divided foliage on 12" stems rising from a creeping rootstock. This foliage is very attractive when new and keeps appearing all summer. Fine as a ground cover under tall evergreens, or in partial shade. \$1.00 each.

VIOLA ROYAL PURPLE.

Sent out by us some years ago, this Canadian Viola is both showy and sturdy. It is the most thoroughly heat resistant sort we have ever grown, flowering for us right thru last summer when most plants were burning up in the drought. When in full growth, a single plant will be two feet across, and a foot high. The rich purple flowers are on long stems, and are well over an inch across, at any season. Early, they are immense.

35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00; 10 for \$3.00.

All prices include delivery charges, unless otherwise stated. If you live west of Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee or Mississippi, please add 5% to cover higher cost of shipping.

SOME UNUSUAL SHRUBS.

CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA ROSEA.

We have had the soft pink flowered form of the Pepperbush for quite a long time, but have found it difficult to produce in quantity. It grows as readily as the common white form, and is far more attractive. Eventually, we hope to have a large stock of them, but now they are distinctly in short supply. While they last, we offer good young plants, which should flower this year. \$2.50 each, postpaid.

DAPHNE CNEORUM.

The Garland Flower isn't as unusual as other shrubs we offer here, but it is too little known in gardens. Commonly sold with a ball of earth, but smaller plants transplant readily without this precaution. We find it grows best in full sun, and on a rather poor soil. Too fertile ground seems to induce winter killing. Makes a beautiful specimen plant, two feet across, and covered in spring with the fragrant pink blooms, followed by a scattered flowering later in the year. For best results, we suggest shearing the plant back hard, right after flowering. Use it also as a ground cover, in light shade.

BARE ROOTED PLANTS, 4"-8" tall, -40¢ each; 10 for \$3.50, postpaid.
" " " 8"-12" tall, 60¢ each; 10 for \$5.00, postpaid.

DAPHNE MEZEREUM.

The February Daphne is much less common than the Garland Flower, and quite distinct from it. It is not evergreen, and it is a large bush, sometimes three feet tall. With us, it usually flowers with the first warm April days, the lilac-purple flowers in clusters along the bare stems, which later on will be full of the bright red berries. Perfectly hardy, but transplants best while small.

BUSHY YOUNG PLANTS, 12" tall, \$1.00 each, postpaid.

PHILADELPHUS MRS. THOMPSON.

In the course of our search for smaller growing shrubs, we brought this Mockorange in from the Canadian nursery of F.L. Skinner at Dropmore, Manitoba. There it was supposed to grow to only about four feet of height. It has exceeded that here, but only slightly. The most charming feature of its growth is the arching habit of the stems when in flower, making it look much like a Bridalwreath. The very large pure white flowers are fragrant and very showy. To our mind, the finest new Mockorange. STRONG YOUNG PLANTS, about 24" tall, several stems. \$1.50 each, pp.

VIBURNUM FRAGRANS.

Flowering even before the Forsythia, the Fragrant Viburnum is particularly welcome. This tall shrub is entirely unlike other new Viburnums. It grows to eight and ten feet, the stems at first quite erect, but tending to droop with age. The foliage is a soft brownish green. The intensely fragrant flowers are in small clusters along the stems, and are soft pink and white. This shrub is particularly satisfactory in the north, where cold delays the flowering. In Indiana, it will flower in February. HEAVY BUSHES, 2/3' tall. \$4.00 each, postpaid.

A SMALL NUMBER OF THE WHITE FLOWERED FORM, same price.
Specify color wanted.

THE MANAGER'S DESK.

Mid-winter in Vermont is not an easy time to prepare an offering of plants. I always put it off, especially so now that we are sending out only two issues instead of four. Right now everything is snowbound and will be for weeks. Many of you will be in the mud of spring when this arrives, but here we can't count on seeing it before March 20th, and it is usually early April before we can dig at all. Don't blame me therefore, if I delay shipping your orders and do please send them along as soon as you receive this GOSSIP, for it's been a long winter so far, and I need a bit of cheering up. If your business closed down almost entirely in November, and stayed that way until April, wouldn't you consider giving it up? I do, almost every winter, but I get over it with the first spring flower.

Even without the usual problems of winter, these are uneasy days. I sincerely trust that for all of us the spring may bring a lessening of tension. Problems we thought behind us in this industry, may plague us again,--shortages of labor and of material, and transportation difficulties. I can only ask that you bear with me if I fail sometimes to send your plants when you wished them. Remember that we always try to do our best, and that if you'll write us promptly and in a friendly way, we'll do our very best to make the matter right. If plants arrive in bad condition, plant them, and report to us. Then we'll be prepared to replace them if they fail to grow. We can't be responsible for cultural failures,--only for arrival in good condition.

I hope we may continue to mail the GOSSIP as in the past. This is the sixteenth year we have done so. We have tried to make it informative, and explicit enough so that you would want plants even though you could not look at pictures of them. If we have failed, you can help by telling me where. Certainly the final decision is yours. I want to mail a GOSSIP if you want it. If you buy our plants, this year of indecision I'll have my answer.

Fred M. Abbey

Gardenside Nurseries, Inc.
Shelburne, Vermont

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